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<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans Honors Radio Dispatchers

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announces National Public Safety Telecommunications Week, April 11, 2004 through April 17, 2004.

On April 14, 2004 Caltrans, in partnership with the California Highway Patrol, Siskiyou County and the Mt. Shasta Police Department will honor all public safety dispatch personnel for law enforcement, fire, medical and transportation. A luncheon is planned to honor these individuals at the New Boston Shaft Restaurant, 1801 Fort Jones Road in Yreka. This special event will begin at 11:30 a.m.

Caltrans District 2 dispatchers are the dedicated employees that coordinate communication between roadside maintenance personnel, district office personnel and area law enforcement. They log an average of 2,000 calls per month. Calls for service include, non-injury, injury and fatality accidents, forest fires, disabled motorists, hazardous spills, slides, and chain control, to name a few. Dispatchers need to respond rapidly in an emergency, maintain poise under pressure and make critical decisions within seconds.

"Our dispatchers are extremely talented and dedicated," said Russ Wenham, Caltrans Deputy District Director for Maintenance and Operations. "Their behind the scenes work plays a critical role in Caltrans' ability to provide a safe and efficient highway system."

Introduced in Congress by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials International in 1991, National Public Safety Telecommunications Week is the second week of April each year. It is dedicated to the men and women who serve as public safety telecommunicators. This is an excellent opportunity to honor all public safety dispatchers for their dedication and public service in our local communities.

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NOTE: An electronic version of this news release is available on the internet at the following web address: http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news_releases.htm